

# WichitaEnvironment

## Special Interest Articles:

- Latch-Key Monitoring
- Well Plugging Demonstration
- Bio-monitoring at the WATER Center

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## Its 4:00 PM ~ Do You Know Where Your School-Aged Children Are?

For years there has been an on-going debate over "Latch-Key Children" and the potential correlation with the rise in youth violence.

A recent article in the Autumn 2003 edition of the NARA Licensing Newsletter cited some disturbing statistics concerning those difficult hours between after school and when parents arrive home from work. The article stated that in the US, there are 39-million children between five and fourteen years of age with few organized programs to provide them with age-appropriate supervision and activities.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Bureau of Consumer Health and Child Care Licensing and Registration has recently developed School Aged Regulations in an aggressive attempt at meeting this need for quality care. In Sedgwick County, the City of



### Research by the US Department of Education has revealed:

"Students who spend no time in extracurricular activities are 49% more likely to use drugs and 37% more likely to become teen parents than those who spend one to four hours per week in extracurricular activities."

Wichita-Department of Environmental Health Child Care Licensing Division has stepped up to the plate.

There are currently eighty-eight licensed School Aged Programs in the Wichita area that are being monitored by the Child Care Team to ensure the type of quality care that researchers have identified as necessary is provided.

A majority of the programs are conducted in the schools that the children already attend during the day that allow them the opportunity for social interaction with their peers.

The programs are administered and staffed by organizations such as the YMCA and the local Unified School Districts.

Protecting and providing for our children has become a community effort, and for this the City of Wichita-Department of Environmental Health Child Care Team is proud.

## New Water Quality Inspector



Amy has been a water quality inspector since May of this year. She was previously a PHSI in the food protection program. Before coming to Wichita, she was a food inspector with the Tulsa City-County Health Dept., Division of Consumer Protection. She is a Registered Sanitarian in Oklahoma and Kansas. Amy graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a BS in Agriculture & Natural Resources.

### PLUGGING PROCEDURE

STEP 1: Prepare the site by removing all pumping equipment and debris around the well site.



STEP 2: Disinfect the water by adding chlorine to the well.



STEP 3: Fill the well with clay or sand and gravel material until approximately three feet from grade.



STEP 4: Use cement or sodium bentonite to form a plug at the top of the well.



STEP 5: Cover the well with surface soils.



## Unique Well-Plugging Demonstration

A source of clean, safe water is important to all of us and groundwater is an integral part of our drinking water supply.

Using groundwater as a resource requires the use of wells. Wells that are abandoned, improperly constructed or located, can provide a conduit for contamination to enter the groundwater.

There are many wells that have been left abandoned or improperly plugged in fields, farmsteads, industrial sites and urban areas. These wells are not only a potential pathway for contamination to groundwater; many are a physical hazard to animals and humans. Young

children are particularly vulnerable to injury by falling into open wells.

A well is considered abandoned after two years of non-use, or if it cannot supply water, and must be plugged. Improperly constructed wells that cannot be repaired to meet state standards must also be plugged. Kansas's law makes landowners liable for contamination or injury; therefore, it is the responsibility of the landowner to properly plug the well. Landowners may plug their own wells, or hire a well contractor licensed by the State of Kansas to do the work.

It is not uncommon to find a farmstead with one or two abandoned wells, and there may be reluctance to get rid

of a well that has outlived its usefulness. However, abandoned wells lead to ground water degradation and can present risks to water supplies and human health. In order to protect water quality and human health, it is important to eliminate abandoned wells by plugging them according to state and local requirements.

Plugging information packets may be obtained through the water quality program by contacting the City of Wichita-Department of Environmental at (316) 268-8351. Water Quality staff is available Monday through Friday 8:00AM to 5:00PM. After hours messages may be left at the same number and calls will be returned during normal business hours.

## Welcome New Inspectors

The food staff would like to welcome Roy Poland to our food section. Roy is coming to us from Cessna Aircraft and has his B.S. Degree in Biology/Chemistry.



Laura Sutter is originally from Wichita. She graduated from Newman University May of 2004. Laura's interest and hobbies are Running, Watching Baseball, and Baking Cookies.



## Thank You WATER Center Donors!

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## Annual Biological Monitoring



Since the summer of 2002, the Department of Environmental Health has sampled the Arkansas River at the effluent of the WATER Center. This year, the River was sampled on August 25<sup>th</sup>.

The purpose of the sample is to determine any impact downstream of the WATER Center. The Center discharges approximately 1.2 million gallons of treated groundwater each day.

Although this influx of cool water may attract additional fish species, there is little cover and desirable habitat along the banks.

This effort would not be possible without the help of Vaughn Weaver of the Water and Sewer Department and other dedicated volunteers. Thanks to Charles Anderson, Dan Rutledge, Randy Owen, Mark Bradshaw, and Laura Sutter for their help this year!

	Herman Hill 8-29-02	Herman Hill 4-10-03
Black Buffalo	2	14
Black Bullhead Catfish		1
Blue Gill Sunfish	27	33
Bluntnose Minnow		
Bullhead Minnow	81	73
Carp	9	34
Carp Sucker (River)	30	45
Channel Catfish	15	47
Drum	33	4
Emerald Shiners	14	616
Fathead Minnow		3
Flathead Catfish	11	5
Gambusia	7	
Gizzard Shad	2	8
Green Sunfish	52	26
Killifish		1
Large Mouth Bass	1	
Longear Sunfish	18	10
Orange Spot Sunfish	32	41
Quillback	10	19
Red Shiners	232	295
Sand Shiners	11	446
Shorthead Redhorse	1	1
Silver Chub		4
Smallmouth Buffalo		23
Suckermouth Minnow	2	2
White Bass	2	
Total per Site	592	1751
Number of Species	21	23
KS IBI Score (120 max)	87/120	92/120
Deformities	86	13

### About Our Department...

The mission of the Department of Environmental Health is *Protecting People... Preserving the Environment*. This mission is realized through our services, programs and projects that focus on environmental monitoring, code enforcement, and education.

